



A Peek Behind the Curtain

A live theatre performance requires lots of dedication and teamwork from many different people. The following is some basic information about that, as well as your duties as an audience member that will help create a fun experience for everyone.

Who's Who?

- The director is responsible for putting the show together, from a mere vision to a full production in a short amount of time.
- The cast are the actors in a show.
- It takes a team of dedicated crew members to help put on a show from backstage. They help with makeup, costumes, lights, props and ushering.
- Designers decide what kind of sounds, lights, sets and costumes effectively tell a story.
- The stage manager oversees the rehearsal schedule and performances. He or she also monitors where the actors need to be on stage.

Do's & Don'ts

- Arrive on time for the performance.
- Pay attention to the show. Turn off all cell phones and anything else that beeps, vibrates or lights up. This also means no texting!
- Don't take any photographs during the performance. It's distracting to the actors and your fellow audience members.
- Stay in your seat throughout the entire performance, even if something in the show excites or startles you.
- Don't talk during the performance.
- If something in the show is funny, laugh out loud. If something wonderful happens in the story, clap your hands.

What's Your Role?

Believe it or not, you – the **audience** – are the most important part of a theatre performance! Plays and musicals are created to entertain, enlighten and inspire people. The laughter, tears and applause from audiences are an integral part of the theatre experience.

About San Diego Junior Theatre

Every cast and crew member is enrolled in one of our classes. Ranging from 8 to 18 years old, our students learn from grown-ups who are experienced theatre arts professionals. With their guidance, young people get a taste of what it takes to work in theatre world.



About *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe was written by C.S. Lewis and published in 1950. Lewis was inspired to write it after seeing the picture of a faun (a half-goat, half-human creature) carrying an umbrella through a snowy wood. From there, he decided to focus on the story of four children who'd been evacuated from London as part of an effort called Operation Pied Piper during the bombing raids of London during World War II. It was the first to be published in a series entitled *The Narnia Chronicles*, and though it was written and published first, it is actually the second book of the series.

ACTIVITIES

WHAT'S IN A WARDROBE?

In the story, a wardrobe – known more widely in America as a closet – is not just the place to store coats and clothing, but a gateway to Narnia, a magical land in a perpetual state of winter. Imagine that you had a magical wardrobe in your house. What kind of land would your wardrobe lead you to? Describe your magical land by defining:

- WHERE (Is it the beach? The mountains? The desert?)
- WHEN (What time of year is it?)
- WHO (What kinds of creatures or people live there?)
- WHAT (What are those creatures or people doing in that land?)
- WHY would your wardrobe lead to this magical land? (Or better yet, why would you want it to?)



MAGICAL CREATURES

When Lucy, one of the main characters of the story, first enters the wardrobe, she is met by a Faun named Mr. Tumnus. He introduces her to a community of magical creatures including Unicorn, White Stag, Mr. and Mrs. Beaver, and Centaur (half-human, half-horse) – all of whom speak and have human-like qualities. Using your body, voice, and imagination, create your own magical creature. Is your creature half-human, half-animal, or is it just animal? Does it have any special abilities or qualities? Then, strike a pose as your magical creature and say something your creature would say – but say it in your creature's voice! Is the voice loud? Squeaky? Growly? Strike this pose for your class and ask them to guess who or what your creature is!

STONE STATUES

In the story, the evil White Witch has been turning some of the magical creatures into stone as a punishment. Divide your class in groups of 3 or 4 students. Then assign one person in each group to create a tableau (or frozen picture) of a scene using the other students in the group. The scene might involve characters from the previous activity. They might be meeting each other for the first time, or running away from danger, or having a meal. Please point out that these are actual events in the book! Have each group present their tableau to the class, and ask the audience what they think they are seeing.



SYMBOLS & METAPHORS - For After the Show

The title of the play mentions *The Lion* (Aslan), *The Witch* (the White Witch), and *The Wardrobe*. Why do you think these were included in the title? What do you think they represent, both in the title and in the story? Ask your students to share their thoughts with the class. Ask them to imagine the title of the story of their own lives, using the structure of C.S. Lewis's title (*The _____, the _____, and the _____.*) What would they choose, and why?